

4. Commas II

Directions: Add commas where they are needed in the story. Do not add any unnecessary commas. Circle the five misspelled words. Rewrite them correctly in the Spelling Box.

Jay had been fishing for walleye his favorite fish at a remote lake in Wisconsin all week and he had had little success. He had tried minnows lures and jigs all to no avail. It had been most discouraging so he was thinking about packing up and heading for home.

That afternoon he saw a fisherman standing in the lake holding a mirror. Attached to the handle of the mirror was a large net. "Excuse me" Jay said "but what are you doing?"

"I'm fishing of coarse" came the reply.

"With a mirror?" Jay asked thinking the man was crazy.

"Yep it's my latest invention and this time I'm going to make a fortune!" the man said.

"How does it work?" Jay asked already smelling a fish fry.

"Well I'll tell you but it will cost you \$100" the man said appearing reluctant to share his secret.

Jay was anxious to catch some fish to take home so he reached in his pocket counted out the money and handed it to the man.

"O.K." the fisherman said. "You aim the mirror into the water and when the fish swims by the rays of light reflected from the mirror shine right in his eyes. This temporarily blinds the fish and he begins to swim in a circle in confushun. Then you simply dip the net into the water and you grab him with it."

"Oh that's the dumbest thing I've ever heard! How many have you caught like this?"

"Well you're the third one today!" answered the fisherman with a smile.

SPELLING BOX

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

5. Quotation Marks

Directions: Add quotation marks, single quotation marks, and other punctuation marks where they are needed. Circle the five misspelled words. Write them correctly in the Spelling Box.

A nervous, balding man in his 40's had an appointment to see a councilor. He had never gotten help before, but he told himself that things were so bad he had to do something! He pulled into the parking lot, ignoring the sign that read Exit Only. The theme song Titanic was going around in his head. I'm really losing it he told himself with a sinking feeling.

I'm supposed to go to the door with a sign that says Dr. Lucy D. Hope, Therapist, he reminded himself. She told me on the phone You can't miss it.

Finding the office an hour later, the man was relieved. It's a good thing I aloud plenty of time; I'm not even late! he told himself.

Dr. Hope ushered him into her comfortable office. What seems to be the problem she asked.

Doctor, I just don't know what to do! Its all more than I can stand he began.

Well, just calm down and tell me all about it she replied. As I always say A burden shared is a burden lightened.

O.K., Doctor. I have a five-bedroom home on three acres on Lake Caroline in Madison County. I drive a BMW and my wife drives a Jaguar. I have three children in college, and I bought each of them a new car. We belong to the country club. Each summer we spend a month in Europe.

Haven't you ever heard the expression it's not nice to brag said the counselor. Let's get back to what is really bothering you.

Don't you see the man shouted. I only make \$700 a month!

SPELLING BOX

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Driving Good Reading

Isn't it amazing how the most reluctant adolescent reader will suddenly become Evelyn Woods when it comes to reading the *Department of Motor Vehicles Handbook*? This phenomenon usually occurs somewhere around age fifteen. The DMV handbook is a nice example of how we must sometimes buckle down to read informational text, and of how careful readers reap clear benefits.

1. Individually, ask students to take the nine-question driving handbook quiz.
2. In addition to taking the exam, have students make a list of strategies they employed to read and answer the questions correctly.
3. Have students share their answers in small groups and then as a whole class.
4. Brainstorm a list of reading strategies that good readers employ when faced with an exam like this one. Your students might generate some of the following answers:
 - I eliminated obvious wrong answers.
 - I highlighted key words.
 - I narrowed my choices down to two possible answers and guessed.
 - I remember my father getting a ticket for this.
 - I reread the question two, three, four, or more times.
 - I thought back to when I read that specific rule in the *Driver's Handbook*.
 - I skipped problems and came back. (I answered the easy ones first.)
5. Brainstorm: What other kinds of exams will you take in your lives where these reading strategies might be of value to you? List/discuss.

Answer key:

1. B 2. C 3. B 4. C 5. C 6. B 7. C 8. B 9. C

Source: California Department of Motor Vehicles. Laws in other states may vary.

Reading Is
Hard, and
"Hard" Is
Necessary

Want to Get Your Driver's License?

Here is a practice Department of Motor Vehicles exam. Drivers must take and pass a written exam to obtain a driver's license. See how you do!

1. Which of the following statements about blind spots is true?
 - (A) They are eliminated if you have one outside mirror on each side of the vehicle.
 - (B) Large trucks have bigger blind spots than most passenger vehicles.
 - (C) Blind spots can be checked by looking in your rearview mirror.
2. You are about to make a left turn. You must signal continuously during the last _____ feet before the turn.
 - (A) 50
 - (B) 75
 - (C) 100
3. When parking uphill on a two-way street with no curbs, your front wheels should be:
 - (A) turned to the left (toward the street).
 - (B) turned to the right (away from the street).
 - (C) parallel with the pavement.
4. Roadways are the most slippery:
 - (A) during a heavy downpour.
 - (B) after it has been raining for a while.
 - (C) the first rain after a dry spell.
5. When driving in fog, you should use your:
 - (A) fog lights only.
 - (B) high beams.
 - (C) low beams.
6. To avoid last-minute moves, you should be looking down the road to where your vehicle will be in about:
 - (A) 5 to 10 seconds.
 - (B) 10 to 15 seconds.
 - (C) 15 to 20 seconds.
7. A school bus ahead of you in your lane is stopped with red lights flashing. You should:
 - (A) stop, then proceed when you think all the children have exited the bus.
 - (B) slow to 25 MPH and pass cautiously.
 - (C) stop as long as the red lights are flashing.
8. A white painted curb means it's a:
 - (A) loading zone for freight or passengers.
 - (B) loading zone for passengers or mail only.
 - (C) loading zone for freight only.
9. You may legally block an intersection:
 - (A) when you entered the intersection on a green light.
 - (B) during rush hour traffic.
 - (C) under no circumstances.

(Source: California Department of Motor Vehicles)